In the Claims:

1. (original) A centrifugal atomized zinc alloy powder for alkaline batteries consisting of either of
   (a) 0.005-2 % by weight of indium, and 0.005-0.2 % by weight of either one of Al and Bi, or
   (b) 0.005-2 % by weight of indium, and 0.005-0.2 % by weight of Bi, and 0.001-0.5 % of either one or both of Al and Ca, or
   (c) 0.005-2 % by weight of either one or both of Bi and Al, and 0-0.5 % by weight of Pb, the remainder being zinc, and characterized in that the centrifugal atomising process is performed in a protective atmosphere, where the oxygen content is less than 4% by volume.

2. (original) A centrifugal atomized zinc alloy powder according to claim 1, consisting of either of
   (a) 0.01-2 % by weight of indium, and 0.01-0.2 % by weight of either one of Al and Bi, or
   (b) 0.005-2 % by weight of indium, and 0.01-0.2 % by weight of Bi, and 0.003-0.5 % of either one or both of Al and Ca, or
   (c) 0.01-2 % by weight of either one or both of Bi and Al, and 0-0.5 % by weight of Pb, the remainder being zinc.

3. (previously amended) A centrifugal atomized zinc alloy powder in alkaline batteries according to claim 2, characterized in that the oxygen content in the protective atmosphere is greater than 0 % by volume.

4. (original) A centrifugal atomized zinc alloy powder in alkaline batteries according to claim 3, characterized in that the oxygen content in the protective atmosphere is between 0.2 % and 3.5% by volume.

5. (previously amended) An alkaline battery consisting of an anode, a cathode and an electrolyte, characterized in that the battery uses a centrifugal atomized zinc alloy powder according to claim 1.

6. (original) An alkaline battery according to claim 5, characterized in that the powder comprises metal cemented out of the electrolyte.

7. (original) A process for the manufacturing of a zinc alloy powder for alkaline batteries , comprising the step of centrifugally atomising a zinc alloy consisting either of

(a) 0.005-2 % by weight of indium, and 0.005-0.2 % by weight of either one of Al and Bi, or

(b) 0.005-2 % by weight of indium, and 0.005-0.2 % by weight of Bi, and 0.001-0.5 % of either one or both of Al and Ca, or

(c) 0.005-2 % by weight of either one or both of Bi and Al,

and 0-0.5 % by weight of Pb, the remainder being zinc, characterized in that the centrifugal atomising process is performed in a protective atmosphere, where the oxygen content is less than 4% by volume.

8. (original) A process for the manufacturing of a zinc alloy powder for alkaline batteries , comprising the step of centrifugally atomising a zinc alloy consisting either of

(a) 0.01-2 % by weight of indium, and 0.01-0.2 % by weight of either one of Al and Bi, or

(b) 0.005-2 % by weight of indium, and 0.01-0.2 % by weight of Bi, and 0.003-0.5 % of either one or both of Al and Ca, or

(c) 0.01-2 % by weight of either one or both of Bi and Al,

and 0-0.5 % by weight of Pb, the remainder being zinc, characterized in that the centrifugal atomising process is performed in a protective atmosphere, where the oxygen content is less than 4% by volume.

9. (previously amended) A process according to claim 7, characterized in that the oxygen content in the protective atmosphere is greater than 0% by volume.

10. (previously amended) A process according to claim 9, characterized in that the oxygen content in the protective atmosphere is between 0.2 % and 3.5% by volume.

11. (previously added) A centrifugal atomized zinc alloy powder in alkaline batteries according to claim 1, characterized in that the oxygen content in the protective atmosphere is greater than 0 % by volume.

12. (previously added) An alkaline battery consisting of an anode, a cathode and an electrolyte, characterized in that the battery uses a centrifugal atomized zinc alloy powder according to claim 2.

13. (previously added) An alkaline battery consisting of an anode, a cathode and an electrolyte, characterized in that the battery uses a centrifugal atomized zinc alloy powder according to claim 3.

14. (previously added) An alkaline battery consisting of an anode, a cathode and an electrolyte, characterized in that the battery uses a centrifugal atomized zinc alloy powder according to claim 4.

15. (previously added) A process according to claim 8, characterized in that the oxygen content in the protective atmosphere is greater than 0 % by volume.

16. (previously added) A process according to claim 7, characterized in that the oxygen content in the protective atmosphere is between 0.2 % and 3.5% by volume.

17. (previously added) A process according to claim 8 characterized in that the oxygen content in the protective atmosphere is between 0.2 % and 3.5% by volume.